Hawaiian Gazette

Every Wednesday Morning, AT \$6.00 PER ANNUM.

Mailed to Poreign Subscribers at \$7.00. OFFICE-On Merchant street, west he Past Office, Honolulu, H. I.

Printed and published by J. Morr Surru, at the lovernment Printing Office, to whom all business communications must be addressed.

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GAZET

VOL. V---NO. 2.3

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Home Mutual Insurance Company. Beg leave to inform Masters of Vessels and the Public penerally, that all Vessels and Cargoes, insured by either of the above Companies against perils of the sens and other risks, at or near the Sandwich Islands, will have to be verified by them.

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FOR SALE!

A Voyage to the Fijiis.

NUMBER FOUR. Written for the Gazette

Some may very naturally ask-and some have already asked the writer of these sketches-" Was it not rather imprudent to go so far into the interior of a confessyour river voyage of fifteen or sixteen miles, and your subsequent sojourn and intermixing among the people for days?" No; and for one very good reason, which I will tell just here. There had been missionaries at Rewa, some years previous to the time of my visit, and our captain knew that wherever there were missionaries received among, and who had acquired an influence upon a savage and uncivilized people, he could venture without fear of molestation. This has since been my own experience among the many islands of the Pacific which I have visited. Wherever there were missionaries, one could safely land. The pioneer missionaries at the Finis, belonged to the English Weslevan Society. They had several stations in dif-" 1-174 ferent parts of the group, and were, apparently, a hard-working and sincere set men, though their efforts did not meet with much real successs, at that time Since, however, and at the present time. I am informed that the principal chief of the Islands has nominally become a convert, and as a consequence, the islanders may be said to be Christianized. The Rev. Mr. Jagger and wife were the resident missionaries at Rewa. They did not live in the town, but had a neat and commodious straw-thatched cottage on the side of the river just opposite the King's house, hidden umidst bread-fruit trees, bananas, sugar-cane, and all the nameless

varieties of tropical vegetation. After Charley and I had left Phillips to his potations-he had somehow obtained a bottle of New England rum from our vessel-Charley suggested that we should make a call on the "Parson." This I gladly acceeded to, and we were paddled across the river in one of the many canoes lying in front of Phillips' house. We were politely received by the Missionary, whom I found to be of the usual Methodist typemodest and unassuming, but evidently very earnest in his mission. I must give Churley credit-rough "beach-comber" as he was-to say that he took off his hat and bowed his head respectfully as he entered the "Parson's" house. The missionary's THE UNDERSIGNED, AGENTS of wife did not make her appearance during sometimes attacks foreigners living on the low, water pervaded grounds of Rewa, but which never, so far as I could learn, had proved fatal. Mr. Jagger had several natives sitting on the mats in the verandah LICENSED SHIPPING AGENT. FRIHE UNDERSIGNED having been who, on inquiry. I found were some of his a Catechism, a translation into Fijiian of the "General Assembly" Catechism, under which I had been brought up in my New England home. Mr. J. presented me with a copy, and verbally translated to me several of the first questions and answers, giving me an insight into the construction of the language, which was of much use to me afterwards in acquiring a considerable degree of skill in speaking and writing it. I asked, what success be met with in teaching and civilizing these people? His countenance fell for a moment, as he replied-"but little," and then lighted up again, as he added, "yet I have great hopes The time is coming, sure. During scenes of war, carnage, and terrible cannibalism all around us, we have been wonderfully preserved from harm. The King and the Chiefs have somehow given us their pro-

tection, and no one dares to molest us or make us afraid." This man, so meek and modest, and vet so confident of the ultimate triumph of the cause to which he had devoted his life, and for which he had exiled himself and his companion from the comforts of a civilized home to spend his days among savage cannibals, made an impression on my then youthful mind, that can never be ef-

The missionaries, as I have observed, had reduced the language to writing, and had a printing press, and among the runaway sailors had picked up a printer, whom they kept at work whenever they could. I say. whenever they could, for he was a wild erratic fellow, as a great many printers unfortunately are, and whenever a vessel arrived at the islands, the printer would immediately drop his work and start off for the ship, no matter how many long miles she was away-to get rum. While we were laying at Rewa, he left his printing at Mbiwa, in an open whaleboat, and rowed about one hundred and fifty miles, to see if we had any of the ardent. We did-for Salem merchants in those days, always sent a little "venture" of that kind on whatever voyage the vessel might be bound-and "typo" returned rejoicing, with a ten-gallon keg of "Deacon Giles" best New England rum, worth about eighteen cents a gallon-say \$1.80-for which he gave a "head" of tortoise shell, worth in Manila, about ten dollars. After leaving the missionary's house, we

whom we found just preparing for a mid-day meal. In this, we joined him, and made a hearty dinner on baked taro, fish, ducks, paroquetes—a new dish to me, but very fine eating—and green turtle, all serv-ed screeching hot, as an Irishman would say. The Fijiinns believe in having all say. The Fijiians believe in having all food bot, except baked missionary, which, edly savage and cannibal country, as was as Sydney Smith says, they prefer cold. The only instance, however, in which a missionary had been killed at those islands, so far as I have ever heard, was quite recently, an account of which was published in the Honolulu papers. It was the result of an improdent attempt by a missionary to penetrate into the mountain regions of Viti Levu, the elevated plateau of whichsomething like that of Hawaii, between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, but fertile and well watered-is inhabited by a wild and extremely savage tribe, who never have been conquered by the chiefs of the lower lands, and who have no communication with the people of the lower coast. In fact, the latter denominate the mountain eers as savages, par excellence. During the first day ashore in Rewa, I

> ever, been busily in consultation with som of the chiefs, about a suitable place to establish a biche-le-mer station. All agreed that the best ground where the so-called "fish" could be found in most abundance was on the coat of Vanua Levu, the second large island of the group, and lying to the westward of Viti Levu. So in the afternoon we got into our boat again, and bidding good-bye to the people of Rawawho crowded to the bank and almost swamped our boat with gifts of fruits and vegetables-we proceeded down the river, reaching the brig at squeet. Next day w weighed anchor early in the morning, and sailing out through the reef-lined on each side with foaming, thundering breakersbore away for Mbau, the residence of the most warlike and powerful of the Fijii chiefs, "Old Snuff," as he was familiarly called by the foreigners. His native name I have forgotten. After a night at sea. we anchored two miles off the little island on which is situated the town of Mbau, the inhabitants of which exercised so commanding an influence all over the group, and who have since reduced all the islands to their sovereignty-except the mountaineers previously mentioned. Proceeding on shore-it was again my good fortune to be one of the captain's boat's crew -we landed at a wharf, neatly built of stones, where lay a number of canoes, both single and double, some of the latter being as large as one hundred feet in length and six feet in depth, capable of carrying three hundred men. On landing, a messenger met us from the king's eldest son, who stated that his father was absent at of the foreigners lived. During the old king's absence, the prince (and recognized heir to the kingship) exercised the powers and duties of regent. So we proceeded to his house, the usual great, barn-like structure of a chief, situated near the centre of the town. The only marked difference between the appearance of Mbau and that of Rewa, was the absence of trees. The place was little more than an elevation of the surrounding coral reef, on which sand had accumulated, and about the only vegetation to be seen, was here and there a cocoanut or pandanus tree. But the people of the place lacked for nothing. Canoes were constantly arriving from the different islands subject to the the land to feed the haughty and fierce

We found Thakomban (literally "the Lord of Mban") seated in naked majesty. cross-legged, and surrounded by his attendants, male and female. A yellow complexioned and pleasing featured young woman, a native of Tongstabe-known on the charts as the Friendly Islands-was busily plying the fan. This was his favorite wife. The prince received us with easy dignity, and after we were seated. food was placed before us, which it would seem is always kept hot in a Fijii house. First, however, the usual angona (awa)

etiquette, no one can drink after a chief. to Mban. This was readily granted-a his head, and the thermometer returned across the river to Than Kana-consin of Thakomban's, the brother of the degrees below zero, wearily and painfu ata's, (the bread-fruit eater) or Phillips, chief of Raberabe, on the Vanua Levu plodded his way 30 miles, in order to me

fishing grounds, to touch at Libouka, on the island of Ovniau, on our way, to pro-cure laborers for the seele net ee, the catch-ing of biche le-mer.

\$86.00 PER YEAR

The Territory of the Hudson Bay Company and the North-West Passage.

[From in Revue des Deux Mondes.] The two parties shook hands in the most cordial manner, then sat on the ground, in a large circle, and proceeded to puff clouds of the odoriferous weed. The pipes having been three times filled and smoked. the Indian Cree Chief rose up, and delivered, with grace and easy elegance of manner, the following speech, which was trans-

lated by La Ronde : "I and my companions have had our minds troubled by things that were told us by chiefs of the Hudson Company. They said that white men would soon had not seen our captain, who had, howvisit our country, and that we must be on the alert. Now, I ask you, Why have you come hither? In your own land you are, I know, great and powerful Chiefs, and that you have there plenty of blankets, ten, salt, tobacco and rum. You have likewise, fine guns, shot and powder; but there is one thing you have not : you are denrived of bisons, and you come here to find them. I am, like you, a great Chief. but the Great Spirit has not given us equal shares. To you he gave varied and nany presents, to me he gave the bisons. Why do you come to destroy the only good thing I possess, in order to find some sporting amusement? Nevertheless, as I am certain that you are great, generous, and good, I give you permission to go wherever you like on my lands, and to hunt, whenever you please. When you come to my camp, you will be welcomed and well received.

The Chief's speech touched upon some delicate questions about which the future member of Parliament deemed it prudent not to enter into controversy. He merely paid a flattering compliment to the Chief. and substantiated his praises by a liberal gift of knives and other presents, but he failed to please the Indian, whose discourse, freely translated, meant: "Give me some rum." The Indiana gave way to their disappointment by proclaiming all over the prairie that Lord Milton was a man of low birth, and without education or manners.

It was now high time for our adventurers to return to Fort Carleton, as a fight was becoming imminent; the season was itents of those countries must suffer. Ovalau, which was the island where most also advanced, and they had not yet preingly returned to the Fort, and thence pretensions, a favorable account of the immediately proceeded towards the north- character and manners of those misurable west, to the shores of the White Fish Indians, who have field before the progress Lake, in a country called by the half-castes, of Civilization. Lord Milton and Dr. "La Belle Prairie."

So far, everything had gone on success-

place was well selected. It looked almost like some English park which had been Northward, was the boundless forest, inhabited by animals robed in the most precious and costly furs; southward, at a vast and luxuriantly clad-prairies, freking of Mbau, bringing the abundance of quented by numerous herds of buffaloes: lake, full of silvery-scaled fishes; and all shrubs and brushwood, favorable for small game. In case of urgent necessity, they were not too far from Fort Carleton. It is only true to say that more than once the centigrade thermometer marked 40 degrees below zero, but they were protected from the fierce cold winds by the log house constructed under La Ronde's directions. Moreover, their neighbors were not troublesome, for the Crees of the forest lead a kind of sedentary and quiet life with their families, and are much more was provided, but declined by us, where- peaceable than the Crees of the prairie, upon the prince drank a cup-fuil, amid the who are always on horseback, buffalo clapping of hands and singing of the re- hunting, and whose warlike dispositions tainers. The remainder of the contents of are developed by those manly sports. The the tanca, or wooden bowl, were then Crees of the forest earn their living by poured out upon the ground, for by Fijii trading with the Company, to whom they sell valuable furs in exchange for blankets, Our breakfast over, the captain opened fire-arms and provisions. The condition his business, by first presenting a large of these poor people would not be so very whale's tooth. Whales' testh, next to miserable if it were not for the climate. muskets and ammunition, are the highest and if the characteristic feature of a huntprized articles of trade in the islands, er's life was not to pass, without transi-This was received with a great deal of cer. tion from extreme abundance to extreme emony, the clapping of hands being led famine. But although Lord Milton and by the prince himself, and expressive of Dr. Cheadle do not like to confess it, it is his autisfaction. The retainers all followed very evident that nothing in the world sait, clapping loudly in concord, and wind- could have induced them to spend another ing up with a long, combined shout of winter in the territory of the Hudson "Ndun, Woh!" The object of the cap- Bay Company. The bitterness of the tain's call on Thakombau, was to procure cold is only surpassed by the weariness of a chief to accompany us to the coast of their solitade; and Dr. Cheadle, after two Vanua Levu, to remain on board as a bost- days of camp life, can not bear the silence age, while the trading party should remain of the forest, while Lord Milton, having on shore—that island being in subjection hardly recovered from an erysipelas on

Dawaiian Gazette BOOK AND JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT!

THE "GAZETTE" OFFICE

AND PANCY PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. WITH NEATNESS AND DISPATCH

ome fellow creatures. To their di of solitude, is soon added unother cause of complaint: the log house being so narrow, that in a few days, the soil is elevated by the refuse of their meals. Such was the life they were obliged to lead, and their only anxiety was to derive the means by which they might escape death from

Large game, at that senson of the year, is very scarce. No European, may, no half-enste, ever takes the large deer of Canada by surprise. He can be chased with dogs only in the spring when the night frost, succeeding the warm day, hardens the snow into a thin, ley crust, which breaks under his weight, and in which he remains entangled as in a net-Ice and snow also afford their pr

ing mantle to the fishes, while the eid lucks and other fowls will not return before the spring. They sent to Fort Carleton, and even to Fort Garry, for provisions, and went bunting the buffale with the temperature at 40 degrees below zero, with a result, however, unequal to their efforts. The means of converance are wanting. The snow, reduced to a minate dust by the cold, covers the ground to the depth of several feet, and carriages and horses are perfectly useless. They resort at last to sleds drawn by dogs, but the condition of the unfortunate animals is lumentable. They are the first to feel the tortures of hunger; if they are not fed, they are not able to pull, and if they are, they soon consume all the provisions they have been able to carry. But this is not the only difficulty to be overcome : the way must be prepared for the sleds by treading down the snow. You have also to push vigorously up the steep hills, and to check the sled, when on a descent, by dragging your legs in the snow, and you have also to pick up the provisions when your sled has been overturned. When you return from a successful expedition, you have about as much food as when you started: what would it have been if you had not met any game?

Here we must remark that plenty of ioney, and what money can buy, has followed our intrepld travelers in the solitudes of America. They lead an Indian. savage life in the same style as the owners of proud castles fancy that they live a country life. They have plenty of blankets and provisions; they have men to shoot for them, and women to mend their clothes. As far as the resources of the country permit, they hire dogs and sleds, and surmount, thereby, the greatest difficulty in a solitude-the difficulty of couveyance. We must, therefore, judge by what they suffered, despite all the means at their disposal, of what the poor inhab-

Cheadle have remarked that in the dread fal time of famine, the men were thinner fully, and the time they spent in their and more attenuated than the women and winter quarters was not very hard. The children, because the last pieces of food were given to the latter. In the most bitter cold, they have seen children strip planned in inutation of nature itself. off their blanket to add it to that of their sleeping father, and resist sleep and fatigue, that the fire should not go out. Never does a trapper visit the snares distance of two or three days' journey, the | which he has not hid; never does a hunter take the game which another has wounded. During the six months that they spent in at the bottom of the valley, a clear, deep the log house, with no other protection than public faith, no theft was committed. around them, a country covered with They relate the instance of an Indian stopping in the house during their absence : a piece of meat was on the table, and the Indian had not eaten for three days, yet he did not touch it. The Indians, it appears, entertain a kind of segraful opin of the Europeans, who, with legs of the same length as their own, make strides by one third shorter, and who, instead of going in a straight line in the dark turn round, because they include a little to the

The Indian does not get intoxicated on ecount of an excessive love of liquor, but to obtain a momentary forgetfulness of his misery. The taste or quality of the drink is of no consequence with only wants it to contain enough of alcohol to make it burn, like punch, and they call it, for this reason, water of fire. It is difficult to indorse Dr. Cheadle's opinion